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لا الٰہ الا اللہ محمد رسول اللہ

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِندَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ

THE REVIEW OF RELIGIONS

September 1967

EDITORS

S. D. AHMAD M. G. AHMAD

THE AHMADIYYA MOVEMENT IN ISLAM

The Promised Messiah, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad was born in 1835 in Qadian, a village in India. In the eighties of the 19th century, he was called to the office of world Reformer to combat the current of anti-religious philosophies and to explode the Christian theory of redemption based on the fiction of Christ's death on the Cross and to tell the Christians and Muslims to call off their hope for a second visit from Christ as he had been gathered to his forefathers and barred like all mortals from coming back to the world; and that he, the Promised Messiah, had come instead.

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The Promised Messiah initiated the Ahmadiyya Movement (1) to revive Faith in God, challenging rival churches to a spiritual contest to seek Divine sanction for the religion He favoured, through prayer and appeal to Him for guidance and arbitration in the matter, by means of His signs (2) to re-establish the glory of the Holy Prophet Muhammad and to expound and disseminate spiritual beauties and moral excellencies of the teachings of the Holy Quran(3) to wean men from war-like tendencies and to educate world opinion in favour of renunciation of war as a means of settling disputes (4) to infuse hope, faith and courage in the drooping hearts of Muslims and all the depressed races and nations of the world (5) to warn the exploiters, slave-drivers, and pedlars in sin against the evil consequences of their evil ways (6) to collect under one banner all the true followers of Islam and lovers of peace and (7) to inculcate among them the spirit of tolerance, goodwill and self-less fellow-service and a feeling of true brotherhood.

The Promised Messiah passed away in 1908 and was succeeded by his foremost votary and closest companion Hazrat Haji Hakim Maulvi Nooruddin as Khalifatul Masih I. After his death in 1914, the Promised Son of the Promised Messiah, Hazrat Haji Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad was chosen as the Khalifatul Masih II. During his 52 years of Imamat the Khalifatul Masih II organized a world-girdling chain of mosques and missions. On his death on November 8, 1965, the electoral college named with one accord Hafiz Mirza Nasir Ahmad, the late Khalifatul Masih's son and the Promised Messiah's grandson, the Khalifatul Masih III.

For further information about the Movement, its activities and aims and objectives or literature, enquiries may be addressed to the nearest Ahmadiyya Mission or direct to

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Printed at the Nusrat Art Press, Rabwah, and Published by M. Masud Ahmad B.A. for the Sadr Anjuman Ahmadiyya, Rabwah, West Pakistan.

The Review of Religions

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to the Cause of Islam

This is an organ of the Ahmadiyya Movement which represents true Islam. It deals with religious, ethical, social and economic questions, Islamic mysticism and current topics. It also provides Book Reviews.

It is open to all for discussing problems connected with the religious and spiritual growth of man, but it does not give any assurance to publish all articles, nor does it accept any responsibility for views expressed by contributors.

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Annual subscription including Packing and Postage :

1.	Pakistan, India and Ceylon ;	... Rs. 10
2.	England and other Sterling Areas	... £1.
3.	U.S.A. and other Dollar Areas :	... $3.00

Note :—All Cheqes and Drafts should be on any bank in Pakistan. But if these are on any foreign bank, a collection charge of 50 cents for U.S.A. and 4 sh. for U.K. should be sent in addition to the subscription as above.

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The Review of Religions

RABWAH, WEST PAKISTAN

Vol. LXI SEPTEMBER, 1967 No. IX

Mosque — the center of pure worship and selfless service*

Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih III

It is indeed a very happy, auspicious and sacred occasion for us. Through the grace of God, the ladies belonging to the Ahmadiyya Community contributed to build this mosque in this beautiful land and the metropolis of the very polite people of Denmrak. In response to this divine grace, our hearts are full of divine praise. We are also obliged to the great people of this land for their kind and willing co-operation and their moral support to remove the obstacles in the building of this mosque. Alhamdo lillah-Thank God, this small, little mosque is ready. I declare it open in the name of God and with full confidence and trust in Him that He shall fulfil the purpose for which this mosque has been built.

* Speech delivered by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III on the occasion of the opening ceremony of the Nusrat Jahan Mosque, Copenhagen, Denmark, on 21st of July, 1967.

The Holy Qur'an emphatically lays down that the mosque which is the house of God belongs to no human being and that all places of worship belong to Allah. Man simply performs the functions of a mere custodian. Therefore, it is that the doors of the Islamic mosques are open to all such individuals or religious communities as like to worship the one and the only God. It is however, quite clear that no god except God is permitted to be worshipped in a mosque. This restriction is reasonable and no legitimate objection can be raised against it. Therefore, the idols and images which people worship are not allowed to be brought to the mosque but any one who wants to come and worship the one and only God with sincerity and without intention to create mischief, he or she is permitted to come and worship freely. Allah gives this permission and orders us not to stand in his or her way. This would be clear from the practice and tradition of the Holy Prophet—on him be peace, which I quote :

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When the Jews of Khyber and the Christians of Najran came under the suzerainty of the Muslim Government, the Holy Prophet of Islam gave them complete freedom of belief and action. It has been reliably reported that when the Christians of Najran came to Medina, the Holy Prophet—on whom be peace, permitted them to perform in the Prophet's own mosque the rites of worship in their own way. When some companions of the Holy Prophet objected to this, the Holy Prophet reprimanded them. Therefore, the Christians turned their faces to the East and performed the obligations of prayer in their own way.

The Holy Qur'an clearly states that :

و ان المساجد لله فلا تدعوا مع الله احدا . و انه لما قام
عبدالله يدعوه كادوا يكونون عليه لبدا . قل انما ادعوا ربى
و لا اشرك به احدا . (۲۱-۱۹)

It also states in this verse that those who lack tolerance and are ignorant of the teachings of Qur'an in this regard "Crowd upon the servant of God and try to almost suffocate him"

in utter humility and lowliness, in order to symbolise and reflect the attributes in his own person he surrenders all his desires and urges and relationships to the will of his Lord. In answer to this oppression he gives the answer and says: I offer my prayers only to my creator and sustainer, the Lord God of us all and I also pray that He may guide you to His path.

This mosque has been built on five pillars which symbolise the five cardinal and basic principles of Islam. They are:

One: Tawhid—which means to worship the one and only God and demands that we bear testimony through our practice and profession that there is no God but Allah and that we all disown the false gods like power, wealth, glory and self-love and dethrone all idols like jealosy, malice, display and breach of trust.

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Two: The second cardinal principle of Islam is *Salat* Islam prescribes that we pray five times daily and as far as possible in congregation. What is prayer? It is submission made to God with great aching of the heart with a view to obtaining pure communion and true attachment to Allah. It is not the mere utterance of a few words. This utterance is accompanied by the 'burning of the heart' and the profound conviction that God listens to and accepts our humble supplication.

The third basic principle of Islam is Fasting. This also includes prayer. Fasting affects the body and prayer influences the soul. Prayey melts the hearts and creates the yearning for God. Fasting fulfils the twin purpose of discharging our duties to God and our duties to man. Hunger and voluntary denial of food and drink brings home to us the existence of poverty and hunger. This makes us realise our duty to man and serves as a reminder that it is our duty to fight hunger wherever it exists.

The fourth cardinal principle is *Zakat.* This word is derived from تزكية which means purifying one's wealth. One earns one's livelihood lawfully and then spends it in the way of God and

cleans his income. Zakat does not merely mean paying at the rate of the prescribed percentage. It alro means that the poor also legally share our income and that our income is not only ours but also theirs.

The fifth cardinal principle is *Hajj* or the ceremony of *Hajj*. This is a form of worship in which the pilgrim "Cuts himself off from all worldly passions and completely engages himself in the love of God". This ceremony teaches us our collective duties as members of the great brotherhood of man and pointedly brings home to us our collective responsibilities and problems and that we are not only individuals and members of limited groups but also members of the vast human group and have obligations to this group.

In the end, I humbly pray to God and request you all to join me in this prayer :

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O God, listen to this humble prayer of mine. The Ahmadi women, young and old, have offered this financial sacrifice out of love and devotion for You and have built a house for You in this part of the world, in order to establish the glory and majesty and unity of Your person in this land.

O our beloved and dear Lord condescend to accept this humble offering and reveal the majesty of Your face through the flashes of Your power and might and the heavenly signs of Your deep love for mankind.

O God, listen to our cries and our appeal for mercy which we make for all mankind. You know the innermost secrets of our hearts. Nothing is hidden from You. You know we want no glory or greatness for our sake. We want to establish Your greatness and glory. We want no reward for ourselves. The reward we seek is that Your creatures learn to recognise You and take refuge in Your protection from Your wrath which is about to descend on the world and which You foretold to the Promised Messiah and founder of this movement more than sixty years ago.

O God, create the conditions and the climate which can save these creatures of Yours from the atomic and nuclear destruction whose shadows are already looming large on the horizon. O God, grant us the strength to be Your devoted and true Muslims and your humble believers. O God, grant that our children and our coming generations inherit Islam and be Your righteous servants and give us the opportunity to offer prayer which You accept; and visit our hearts with Your full grace and mercy and forgiveness.

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O God, bless this mosque and make it a house and centre of pure and undefiled worship and selfless service. May all those who are connected with this mosque be able to serve all mankind, be sympathetic to all, well wishers of all, and should have brotherly and transparently sincere relationship with all. May they cause no pain or harm to anyone, neither at their hands nor through their tongues nor in any other conceivable way. Let darkness vanish from their hearts and let the world be illuminated through the light which they radiate.

O our Master and Sustainer! Make this house of Yours the house of peace and security. Let its members dispel all clouds of misunderstanding and mischief from this world and let man once again become brother to man; and let all mankind assemble under the pleasant shade of Your protection and let Your light shine in all hearts and let all hearts be filled with the love of Your beloved, the greatest benefactor of mankind, the Master Prophet Muhammad—on whom be Your peace and blessings.

O Master and Sustainer! We are weak but You are strong and are the source of all power and strength. O God, the master of both the worlds, disclose Your face and show us the miracle of Your might and bless our humble efforts so that we are able to realise the purpose You have Yourself set for us.

A Message of Peace and a Word of Warning

Address delivered by Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih III on 28th July, 1967, at the Wandsworth Town Hall, London, S.W.

As Head of the Ahmadiyya Movement I have the honour to occupy a spiritual office. In that capacity, I am charged with responsibilities which I am not permitted to lay aside at any time till I draw my last breath. These responsibilities embrace all my fellow-beings, every one of whom because of that fraternal bond, is dear to me.

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Gentlemen, mankind finds itself at this moment at the brink of disaster. In that context I am the bearer of a momentous message for you and for all my brethren. Having regard to the occasion, I shall endeavour to make it brief.

My message is of peace and harmony and of hope for mankind. I earnestly hope that you will listen carefully to what I have to say and to ponder it with an open and enlightened mind.

The year 1835 occupies a place of pride in the human calendar. In that year a child was born in Qadian, an obscure village in the north of India. For generations his forbears had ruled the area around Qadian with great distinction. But the great house had fallen on lean days and lost much of its glory. The child that was born was no ordinary child. He was destined to bring about a great revolution not only in the realm of the spirit but also in the realm of matter. He was named Ghulam Ahmad by his parents and later became known to the world as Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani. He was appointed by God, as the Messiah and the Mahdi.

Family records indicate that he was born on February 13, 1835. It was an age of ignorance. Not many people in

that part of India were fond of learning. Hardly a few could read and write. Often a letter would remain unread for want of a reader.

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The tutors engaged for the instruction of this child were not very learned. They taught him to read the Holy Quran. But they were not competent enough to impart even rudimentary instruction in the meaning and spiritual profundities of the Holy Book. They also gave him elementary instruction in Arabic and Persian. He learnt to read the two languages but did not acquire any proficiency in them. He studied some books on the indigenous system of medicine under the guidance of his father who was a renowned physician. This was the sum total of his formal education. True, he was fond of books and was usually occupied with reading them in his father's library. But as learning and scholarship were not much esteemed at the time, his father wanted him to assist him in managing his mundane affairs and to interest himself in them and win social esteem and popularity. Hence his father tried to dissuade him from his studies and warned him against becoming a bookworm.

It is clear that with such elementary education he could not have carried out the stupendous task entrusted to him by Allah. Therefore, Allah Himself became his guide and teacher and taught him the meaning of the Holy Quran, and the secrets of the spirit and of life. He illumined his mind with His own light and blessed him with the mastery of the pen, and with beauty and sweetness of expression and helped him write scores of books of unsurpassed brilliance and to deliver discourses which are rich repositories of learning and spiritual knowledge.

The time of his birth had been foretold by the earlier prophets and found prominent mention in their sayings and scriptures. I would here mention only one such prophecy, by the Holy Prophet Muhammad, Chief of the Prophets (on whom be peace). He had prophesied about the Mahdi more than thirteen hundred years before that a number of false claimants to the office of the Promised Messiah and Mahdi would arise among

the Muslims. None of them would be the true Mahdi, except one, who will be a true follower of the Holy Prophet and to establish the truth of his claim two great heavenly signs will appear. These signs will be the solar and lunar eclipses which shall take place in the same month of Ramadhan. The lunar eclipse would occur on the first of the possible nights of such eclipses i.e., the 13th. The Solar eclipse would occur on the second of the possible days of such eclipses i.e., the 28th.

The fixing of the month of Ramadhan out of all the months of the year and again the fixing of definite dates of the eclipses was a mighty prophecy indeed. To foretell such a conjunction of events was to transcend beyond the limits of human knowledge. In fact when the time came the claimant actually appeared and declared himself to be the Mahdi and this was followed by the two heavenly signs—the two eclipses—as foretold with precision and exactitude. Most certainly this prophetic utterance of the Holy Prophet, as events some thirteen hundred years later proved, was truly divinely inspired and of superhuman origin.

The prophecy was fulfilled in this manner. The child who was born in 1835 declared in 1891 that he was the Promised Messiah and Mahdi. In support of his claim he advanced numerous arguments and cited a large number of heavenly signs; and also presented to the world a number of his own prophecies some of which were fulfilled in his own time while the fulfilment of others took place later and continues to this day. The contemporary theologians rejected his claim. One of the reasons for this rejection put forward by them was that the prophecy of the Holy Prophet, namely, the one about the solar and the lunar eclipses which were to take place in a certain month and on certain dates and which was to be a sign of the truth of such a claimant, had not yet been fulfilled. Therefore, according to them, he could not be the Mahdi. But the Omnipotent and Almighty God always keeps His promises and treats His sincere servants with love and constancy. In keeping with His promise and the prophecy

of the Holy Prophet, the solar and lunar eclipses took place in the exact month and on the exact dates in 1894 and thus manifested to the whole world that the God of Muhammad (on whom be His peace and blessings) is All-powerful and Supreme. He showed this sign not once but twice, for it was repeated the following year in the western hemisphere. The two eclipses occured in the precise month and on precise dates so that the people of the orient and the occident, of the new world and the old, should bear witness to the supreme glory and power of God and the truth of the Holy Prophet Muhammad and his spiritual son Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. Great is the Holy Prophets who made the prophecy on the basis of divine knowledge and great is his spiritual son in whose person it was fulfilled.

From Muhammad (on whom be peace and blessings) to Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, in the course of thirteen hundred years, quite a few persons claimed to be Mahdis but the sun and the moon did not bear witness to the truth of anyone except in the case of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. This alone should be enough to make you to consider, dispassionately and earnestly, and ponder the claim of this claimant whose message I have the honour to convey to you this evening and by whose side the sun and the moon stood as eager witnesses to his truth and veracity.

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So far about the sun and the moon; let us now, turn towards the earth and hear what it says. With the coming of the Promised Messiah and Mahdi strange and extraordinary upheavals and revolutionary changes, both physical and spiritual, were bound to take place. In fact all the various revolutions and major historical changes are different dimensions of the same revolutionary process which was initiated with his advent as Mahdi and Messiah and bear witness to his truth. What is more these upheavals are taking place as predicted by the Holy Prophet and by the Promised Messiah. Let me cite some examples.

During the early days of the mission of the Promised

Messiah there was no eastern country that could rival the might of the civilized and powerful nations of the West. Then in 1904 it was revealed to him that soon certain eastern nations would emerge as important world powers challenging the supremacy of the West. Soon after Japan defeated Russia in 1905 and established its claim as an Eastern World Power. Then, after the fall of Japan in World War II, China emerged as a great Oriental Power. The rise of these two nations as world powers changed the course of history and as the years go by their impact will be felt on an even vaster scale.

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All this has happened in conformity with the Divine Will as revealed to the Promised Messiah.

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Another important event of this age which profoundly influenced the whole world is the liquidation of the Czar and his imperialist regime and the triumph of communism. The Russian Revolution which seems to have changed the course of history took place exactly in keeping with prophetic utterances of the Promised Messiah. It was in 1905 that he prophesied, on the basis of divine revelation, that the Czar of Russia and his family and their system of Government would face dire distress It is a strange coincidence that within months of this prophetic announcement the foundation of a political party was laid which, some 12 or 13 years latter destroyed the monarchy and the royal house of the Czars. The eventual rise of communism and its vast ramifications are too well-known to need elaboration. Suffice it to say that the overthrow of Czarist regime and the triumph of communism in Russia and elsewhere is a tragic chapter of human history which makes painful reading but which can on no account be ignored. No country in the world, including your own, has been immune against its impact. But we are neither surprised nor upset at the way events have moved. Their intensity, speed, and direction were all foretold by the Promised Messiah and will bə found in due time to have contributed materially to the consummation of the divine scheme. It had been predicted and the prediction was graphic and detailed that in the days of the Mahdi and Promised Messiah, two great

powers would emerge and the world would be split into two hostile camps. No other power would be strong enough to challenge their supremacy. They would eventually clash and fight each other and perish in the process. This, however, is not the only war against which the Promised Messiah and Mahdi warned. He prophesied five major catastrophesof world dimensions.

About the first World War, he declared that it would overtake the world suddenly. The world would be shocked. Travellers would be faced with great trouble. Rivers would turn red with blood. The yonng would be shocked into senility. Mountains would explode. The horrors of war would make people mad. It would be the time of the Czar's destruction. The seed of world communism would be sown. Fleets would be kept at combat ready. Great naval battles would be fought. Empires would be over-thrown and cities would turn into graveyards.

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This holocaust was to be followed by another world war of even vaster dimensions and deadlier consequences. This was to change the map of the world and reshape the destinies of nations. Communism was to appear as a world force and begin dictating terms. Vast areas were to fall under its sway. That is exactly what happened after the second World War. Many countries of Eastern Europe turned communist and 700 million people of China followed. The emerging nations of Africa and Asia are greately influenced by communism. The world is divided into two hostile camps, each armed to the teeth with the latest sophisticated weapons ready to hurl mankind into a burning hell of death and destruction.

The Promised Messiah also prophesied that a third world war of even bigger dimensions would follow the second. The two opposing camps will clash with such suddenness that everyone will be caught unawares. Death and destruction will rain from the sky and fierce flames shall engulf the earth.

The colossus of modern civilisation will tumble to the

ground. Both the communist and the opposing blocks will perish in the process. Russia and its satellites on the one hand and the U.S. and its allies on the other, shall be destroyed, their might broken, their civilization ruined and their system shattered. The survivors shall stand aghast and amazed at the tragedy. Russia will recover sooner from the calamity than the West. The prophecy is clear that the Russian population will recover and multiply rapidly. They will be reconciled to their Creator and will accept Islam and the Holy Prophet of Islam. A people who are seeking to wipe out the name of God from the earth and to drive Him out of the skies will realize the folly of their ways and at long last submit to Him as staunch believers in His Unity and Oneness.

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You may consider this a fantasy. But those who survive the third world war will witness and bear out the truth of what I have said. These are the words of God Almighty. They shall be fulfilled. No one can avert His decree.

The end of the third world war will be the beginning of the triumph of Islam. People will accept its truth in large numbers and will realize that Islam alone is the true religion and that the emancipation of man is to be won through the message of Muhammad alone (on whom be peace).

All these events are important landmarks in the history of man. The emergence of Japan and later of China as world powers on the oriental horizon, the complete annihilation of Czarist Russia, the triumph of communism and its growing influence in the world at large, the first great war that changed the map of the world and the second world war which brought about a cataclysmic unheaveal in the world, are no ordinary events. They happened as had been prophesied. We must remember that the Promised Messiah fulfilld his mission and passed into the mercy of Allah on May 26, 1908. All these prophecies had been given wide publicity long before.

It is certain, therefore, that the revelation and prophecies

about the ultimate and universal triumph of Islam will also come to pass in their own good time. For they are links of the same chain.

The signs of the revival of Islam are already visible. They may not be very clear yet but they are easily discernible. The sun of Islam will finally rise in its full splendour and illumine the world. But before that happenss the world must experience another war—a bloodbath—that will leave mankind shaken and chastened.

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But, gentlemen, let us not forget that this prophecy, like all prophecies, is a warning and its fulfillment can be delayed or even averted provided man turns to his Lord, repents and mends his ways. He can yet avert Divine wrath if he stops worshipping the false deities of wealth, power and prestige, establishes a genuine relationship with his Lord, refrains from all transgression, does his duty to God and man, and learns to work for true human welfare. It all depends on the nations that dominate the world today and who are intoxicated by the heady wine of wealth, power and prestige. Are they willing to shake off this state of inebriation ? Are they eager for spiritual bliss and happiness ?

If not Divine wrath is bound to descend. If they do not give up their evil ways and persist in their arrogance no power and no false gods shall avail them aught against the the promised chastisement.

Be kind, therefore, to your own selves and to your children ! Listen to the voice of your Lord, Most Gracious, Ever Merciful. May He smile on you with compassion and grant you the strength and the opportunity to accept and to profit from the truth.

Now a word about the spiritual revolution which Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the great spiritual son of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (on whom be the peace and blessings of Allah) was destined to bring about. We must recall that at the time

of his advent the world of Islam was passing through a period of extreme helplessness and decadence. Muslims were poor and ignorant. Industrially they were backward and had lost their initiative in commerce and business. Political power had deserted them. Nowhere in the world did they enjoy real independence. Morally they were bankrupt and were suffering from an acute sense of frustration. They had lost even the will to rise and join the living nations of the world. Islam was being attacked on all sides and there was no one to defend it. Christianity was the most bitter and the most active of its enemies. Its missionaries had gone out to all parts of the world, leading a bitter onslaght against Islam. Christian money and political power were ready and eager to help. Their main target was always Islam. Christianity was so confident of its victory that its advocates had triumphantly declared :

1. The continent of Africa was in their pocket.
2. There would not be a single Muslim left in India.
3. The time had come to hoist the flag of Christianity over Mecca.

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As against all this Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad was alone except for a few penniless Muslims who had gathered round him. He had no power, no money and no political backing. But He Who is Lord and Master of all was his Helper. It was He who commissioned him to proclaim to the world that the days of the revival of Islam were at hand, and that the day was not far when Islam would triumph over all other faiths through its spiritual power.

A word of explanation, however, before I proceed further. Islam teaches and we Muslims all sincerely believe, that Jesus Christ was a righteous prophet of God and that his mother was a model of virtue. Both are spoken of in the Quran as worthy of veneration ; indeed Mary is mentioned in the Quran as an example of purity aud is referred to more reverently there than in the Gospels. The Quran, however, condemns with

the utmost severity, their exaltation into divinities by the Church. That, and the refusal of the Church to accept the Holy Prophet Muhammad (on whom be the peace) have become the sharp dividing lines between Church Christianity and Islam.

The Promised Messiah has said : "I am constantly cogitating over the possibility of a decision between us and Church Christianity. My heart bleeds over the errors of worshipping the dead. For, what could be more painful than that a humble human being should be worshipped as God and a mere handful of dust be proclaimed as the Lord of all the worlds. I would have died of grief long before if God Who is my Lord and Master had not comforted me that the Unity of Allah will triumph in the end ; all other deities will perish ; false gods will be stripped of their alleged divinity; the period of Mary being worshipped as Mother of God will come to an end ; and the doctrine of the divinity of her son too will die. God Almighty says (in the Quran) : If I so will, Mary and her son Jesus and all who inhabit the earth shall perish. Now, He has willed that the false divinity of both of them should suffer death. The two divinities, therefore must die. No one can save them. With them shall die all those propensities which prompted obedience to false gods. There will be a new heaven and a new earth. The days are near when the sun of truth shall rise in the West and Europe shall come to know the true God. Thereafter the door of repentance shall close. For, those who desired to enter will have entered with eagerness. Only those will remain without whose hearts are sealed by nature, who love not light but darkness. All faiths shall perish except Islam and all weapons shall break except the heavenly weapon of Islam which shall neither break nor be blunted until it smashes the forces of darkness into bits. The time is close at hand when the pure Unity of God that even dwellers of deserts who are ignorant of all faiths, feel in their hearts, will spread throughout. On that day no false redemption or false god shall survive. One blow of the divine hand will nullify all machinations of disbelief, but not with the sword

or the gun but by means of enlightening a number of souls with divine light and by imbuing pious hearts with divine effulgence. Only then will you understand what I say". (Tabligh-i-Risalat : Vol. vi pp. 8, 9).

Since these prophetic utterances were made, the world of religion has been completely transformed. The vast continent of Africa instead of joining the ranks of Christianity is gathering under the banner of Islam. In India, the Christian missionaries fight shy of facing even inexperienced young Ahmadis. The wish of hoisting the Christian flag over Mecca remains and shall ever remain a vain desire.

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The signs of the fulfilment of the prophecies about the victory of Islam are becoming more and more evident. I have just discussed the prophecy about the third world war after which Islam will triumphantly emerge in its full glory and I have also pointed out that this catastrophe can be averted through sincere contrition and by treading the path of virtue as taught by Islam. It is for you to choose and save youselves and your children by establishing a true relationship with God based on certainty and conviction or to doom yourselves and your progeny to total annihilation by opting for paths that lead away from Him. The Divine Warner has warned you in the name of God and His Messenger, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of God be on him). He has done his duty. It is my prayer that God grant you the strength and courage to do your duty. Let me conclude in his own words :

"Remember, God has informed me of many earthquakes. Rest assured, therefore, that as earthquakes have shaken America and Europe so will they shake Asia. Some of them will resemble the Day of Doom. So many people shall die that rivulets of blood shall flow. Even the birds and the beasts will not be immune against this death. A havoc shall sweep the surface of the earth which shall be the greatest since the birth of man. Habitations shall be demolished as if no one had ever lived

in them. This will be accompanied by many other terrible calamities which the earth and the heavens will send forth, till their extraordinary nature will become evident to every reasonable man. All the literature of science and philosophy shall fail to show their like. Then mankind will be sore distressed and wonder what is going to happen. Many shall escape and many perish. The days are near, in fact. I can see them close at hand, when the world shall witness a terrible sight. Not only earthquakes but also many fearsome calamities shall overtake man, some from the skies and some from the earth. This will happen because mankind have stopped worshipping their true God and have become lost in the affairs of the world with all their heart and their effort and their intent. If I had not come these afflictions would perhaps have been delayed a little. But with my coming the secret purposes of an affronted God which were hidden so far, became manifest. Says God:

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'We never punish unless We send a Messenger.' Those who repent shall find security and those who fear before calamity overtakes them shall be shown mercy. Do you think you will be immune from these calamities? Or can you save yourselves through artifice or design? Indeed not. That day all human schemes shall fail. Think not that earthquakes visited America and other continents but that your own country shall remain secure. Indeed, you may experience a greater hardship. O Europe, you are not safe and O Asia, you too, are not immune. And O dwellers of Islands, no false gods shall come to your rescue. I see cities fall and settlements laid waste. The One and the Only God kept silent for long. Heinous deeds were done before His eyes and He said nothing. But now He shall reveal His face in majesty and awe. Let him who has ears hear that the time is not far. I have done my best to bring all under the protection of God but it was destined that what was written should come to pass. Truly do I say that the turn of this land, too, is approaching fast. The times of Noah shall reappear before your eyes and your own eyes will be witness to the calamity that overtook the cities of Lot. But God is slow in His wrath. Repent that you may be shown mercy! He who does not fear Him is dead, not alive".

(*Haqiqatul Wahy pp. 256-57*)

Our last word is: All praise belongs to Allah, the Lord of the worlds.

HAZRAT KHALIFATUL MASIH IN EUROPE

(II)

Nur-ud-Din Muneer

In our last issue we had reported Hazrat Khalifatul Masih's visit of Frankfurt (West Germany) and Zurich (Switzerland) and briefly told our readers of the warm reception accorded to him by both the cities and of the warning which he extended to the Western nations that if at this critical juncture, they failed to make their peace with God their fate would be sealed.

Subsequently Hazrat Khalifatul Masih visited The Hague (Holland), Hamburg (West Germany) Copenhagen (Denmark), London and Glasgow (Great Britain) where Ahmadis greeted him with joyful shouts of *Allaho Akbar*, *Allaho Akbar* and *Ahlan wa Sahlan wa Marhaba* and pledged their loyalty to him. Small Ahmadi children presented him with bouquets as a token of their happiness at his arrival.

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At each place the Press, Television and Radio had given such publicity to his mission that whenever he came out in the streets people looked at him eagerly as if they already knew him and had feelings of great regard and friendship for him.

Friday Sermon in The Hague Mosque

On Friday, July, 14, he reached The Hague, capital of Holland, where our mission is established since 1947 and where we have got a mosque as well. A Dutch translation of the Holy Quran was published in 1953 and the Mission, at present in the charge of Hafiz Qudratullah, has gone a long way in disseminating the message of Islam through Dutch publications and in removing the misunderstandings about Islam caused by the Christian Church.

Addressing the congregation of Dutch Ahmadis in The Hague

Mosque on Friday, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih drew their attention towards seeking the love of God through meditating upon His attributes. He said that a correct understanding of the sphere and working of God's attributes chastened the human soul and brought it nearer to God-realisation.

Press Conference:

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In the afternoon on the same day, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih addressed a Press Conference in which Press and Radio representatives participated. A Radio report covering the event was announced in the evening and the following day leading newspapers came out with long and colourful reports under multi-column headings and large-sized photos of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih.

Describing Hazrat Khalifatul Masih as "a magnetic personality", having in his eyes "child-like innocence" and "his face reflecting full self-confidence", a leading paper, "Algmeen Handelsblad, underlined in its issue of July 15, the warning given by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih to the Western nations. It said, "In his opinion the salvation of the West lies only in joining Islam otherwise they will be destroyed".

Another paper, "Haagsche Courant" gave a brief life sketch of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih and wrote that he had "full faith in Islam being the future religion of the world". The paper also referred to the prophecy made by the Promised Messiah, founder of the Movement in this respect that Islam would prevail in the whole world.

'Het Vaderland', another prominent Daily came out with a comprehensive account of the genesis and growth of the Ahmadiyya Movement and its missions in various parts of the world with a special stress on its mission in Holland which it said was playing an admirable roll in bringing Christianity and Islam nearer to each other and bridging the gulf between them.

Quoting Hazrat Khalifatul Masih it said, "The West will

have to face a great devastation after which Islam will prevail in it".

Receptions

The Mission gave two receptions in honour of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih in which a large number of the citizens of The Hague were present. In reply to the welcome addresses, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih outlined the main features of the message of Islam.

Some friends from Dutch New Guinea who were present in the reception extended an invitation to Hazrat Khalifatul Masih to visit their land. He replied, "I will come, Insha Allah. Our mission is to take the message of God to the whole world."

The Imam in West Germany

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Hazrat Khalifatul Masih reached Hamburg on July 16. When the plane landed and he came out, the airport resounded with the cries of *Allaho Akbar*, *Allaho Akbar*, raised by the German and Pakistani Ahmadis who had come to receive their Master. Among them was Chaudhry Abdul Latif, the persent Incharge of our mission in Hamburg.

Our mission in Hamburg was established in 1949 and the mosque opened in 1957. Two editions of the German translation of the Holy Quran have already been exhausted and a number of other books on Islam produced by the Mission in German language are widely read by Germans. The mission also runs a monthly journal, "Der Islam" which carries feature articles on Islam.

Reception by the Provincial Government.

Two receptions were given in honour of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih, one by the Mission and the other by the Provincial Government. A large number of German dignitaries participated. Some German Ahmadis had come on this occaion from a distance

of 400 miles to pay respects to their Imam.

The welcome address presented on behalf of the German Ahmadiyya Community expressed a firm faith in the institution of *Khilafat* in the Movement and was full of sentiments of love and devotion for Hazrat Khalifatul Masih whom it assured of a willing co-operation by them in everything initiated by him for the good of Islam.

It apprised him of the religious conditions prevailing in Europe and said that for lacking rationality Christianity had lost its hold on the people and that the time was now ripe for the spread of Islam among them. In fact there was an under-current running in favour of Islam which was apparent for any discerning observer, and the problem before them was how to expand their missionary activities so as to reap the full advantages offered by the situation.

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The address concluded "The work of Islamising the world is apparently very hard and beset with formidable obstacles. Our means are limited but we have full faith that Islam will now grow and be sovereign in the world as it was foretold by the Promised Messiah (peace be on him)".

In reply to the welcome address, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih said, "I thank you very much for the love and devotion which you have expressed for me. I also thank the German Government for the regard which it has shown to me.

"I do not feel a stranger in Germany. I had visited it in 1934 and 1938 and though the German language which I had learnt at that time I have long since unlearned yet I feel at home in your country. It seems to me that I have come from my own country to my own country.

As an advocate of Islam I offer you peace. Peace is its central idea. The very word 'Islam' in Arabic means peace and a Muslim is one who gives peace to everyone. So I offer peace to the German nation and to all other people and I pray that

nothing may undo their peace.

"But as mankind at large has broken its peace with God, it will be in the grip of devastation unless it again turns to Him and makes its peace with Him. I tell you, there is only one way to save yourselves from this impending disaster and that is that you forge a real link with God. If you do not pay heed to it, nothing will save you from destruction."

In conclusion of his reply, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih offered congratulations to Chaudhry Abdul Latif on his daughter's marriage and pointed out that Islam gave a very high status to womenfolk in its social set-up. In fact the rights which women had secured through a long and arduous struggle extending over many past centuries were given to them by Islam at its very inception some 1400 years ago. But very few women knew what Islam had done for them. It was for women now to seek information about the subject and promote its understanding among them, he added.

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Press Conference

In the evening a press conference was held in the Atlantic Hotel.

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih invited questions and the reporters were quick to avail of the opportunity. A reporter asked him, what is the sign of a true religion? and he replied, "a real link with God".

He added that the only purpose of religion was to join man with God and a religion which failed to do this was not worth its name. He claimed that only Islam did it and fully satisfied the soul of man in its quest of God.

As a proof of his statement he said that he was ready to offer practical demonstration. Some incurable patients should be selected and distributed between him and representatives of other religions. Then without having recourse to any human contrivance he and his contestants should pray for the recovery of patients under their care. If such a contest is held, he said that the

patients entrusted to his care would be healed more in number and in effect than the patients with the followers of other religions. This would illustrate the efficacy of Islam in establishing a true link with the Almighty God.

Continuing his address to the Conference he said that from the signs foretold by the Holy Prophet and the Promised Messiah (peace and blessings of God be on them) he had come to the conclusion that within a period of three decades a great calamity will visit this world and destroy it. Only those persons will survive who have a real connection with God and afterwards Islam will prevail in the whole world including Russia and the U.S.A.

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After Isha Prayers, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih sat amidst the German and Pakistani Ahmadis, showed them the original silver ring containing the inscription of اليس الله بكاف عبده i.e. Is Allah not sufficient for His servant, and explained to them the circumstances in which the Promised Messiah had got it made.

He told them that the Promised Messiah was a man of God and had never thought of worldly wealth. His only passion was to remain in meditation and in pursuit of his study of comparative religions. His needs were all met by his kind father and when suddenly his father died he was stunned and the thought occurred to him that now what would happen to him. It was then that in a flash the above verse of the Holy Quran was revealed to him and God reassured him of His succour. The Promised Messiah had a silver ring made and the revelation inscribed in it as a memento of God's promise.

Years passed and the financial needs of the Promised Massiah rose to great magnitude. But on every juncture God's promise came to his rescue and the Movement founded by him went on expanding and gaining fresh momentum at every step. The needs will increase even more but God's promise is there to meet them. This was the story at the back of the ring, he said. The

German as well as Pakistani Ahmadis, out of reverence for the manifestation of God's power kissed the ring and sought blessings from God.

The Imam on Television

On July 17, in the evening a special programme covering the reception given in honour of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih was televised and it was estimated that near about 7 million Germans saw the programme.

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The German Press

'Diewelt' one of the two most widely circulated Dailies in Germany gave a large sized photo of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih and reported among other events the reception given to him by the State Adviser, Mr. Brick Holtz in the Town Hall, Hamburg.

Another newspaper, 'Bildzetung' in its issue of July 18 gave a large sized photo of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih and a three column report of the Press conference held in the Atlantic Hotel under the following heading spreading over the whole page:

"The man who does not shake hands with ladies"

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih explained that Islam forbids hand-shaking with a woman other than one's near blood relation. The motive behind was not to dishonour but to honour women as intimate intermixing of men and women endangers sex morality.

Another Evening paper, "Hamberger Abend Blatt", in its issue of July 18, reported the Press Conference in terms of questions and answers, three of which are reproduced below:

Q. How many followers have you got in Germany and Europe?

A. We have not made a count. The number is not very large but is larger than the total number of converts, got by christ in his full term of ministry in palestine. We know that we have made a deep impact in Germany and hope to get many more converts.

Q. How will it happen?

A. By conquering the hearts of German people and by convincing them of the superiority of Islamic teachings?

Q. What do you think of the Germans.

A. The German people are open-hearted and frank. It is easy for a man to befriend them.

Inauguration of "Nusrat Jehan Mosque" in Denmark.

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih reached Copenhagen in Denmark on July 20 and on July 21 he inaugurated the "Nusrat Jehan Mosque', the first ever mosque to be built in Scandanavia. The mosque has cost some 7 lakh rupees, the whole amount having been contributed by the World Organisation of Ahmadi ladies. Bearing the name of the holy spouse of the Promised Massiah (peace be on them) the mosque is the sixth one in Europe built by the Ahmadiyya Community, the other five being in London, The Hague, Hamburg, Frankfurt and Zurich. The foundation stone of this mosque was laid by Sahibzada Mirza Mubarak Ahmad, Vakilut Tabshir, Tahrik i-Jadid, a grandson of the Promised Massiah (peace be on him).

The ceremony was attended by Ahmadiyya missionaries in Europe, European Ahmadis, members of Foreign Embassies, dignitaries of Denmark, citizens of Copenhagen and a large number of representatives of Press, Radio and Television.

In his inauguration address, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih expressed his thanks for the Divine grace and the willing cooperation of the World Organisation of Ahmadi ladies and the Danish people which had made the building of the mosque possible.

Explaining the purpose of Islamic mosques, he said that they were intended exclusively for the worship of the One Supreme Being and were open to all the people irrespective of their denomination, provided they worshipped the One and the Only God. As an illustration of this broad tolerant spirit he cited the example set by the Holy Prophet when he allowed the Christians of Najran to offer their worship in his mosque at Medina.

Then pointing to the five pillars on which the mosque

stood he elucidated the philosophy behind the five basic principles of Islam, e.g., profession of the Unity of God, observance of the five daily Prayers, Fasting, Payment of Zakat and Pilgrimage to Mecca.

In conclusion Hazrat Khalifatul Masih earnestly prayed that mankind may again turn towards God and be saved from the ruin which otherewise must be their lot. He implored God that the mosque may become a source of blessings for the people and promote among them that spirit of peace and brotherhood which Islam wanted to establish in the world.

The opening of the mosque is a clear sign of the growing strength of Islam in the country and of the Ahmadiyya Mission which was established in it in 1956. Since then it has published a Danish translation of the Holy Quran and gathered a strong community of Danish people in its fold. It is worthy of note in this connection that Muslim influence had never reached in this part of Europe before. The old centres of Islam in Muslim Spain and Ottoman Empire were too far away to have any effect. It is now for the first time in the history of the region that a Muslim Mission is working in it.

The inauguration of the mosque opens a new and significant chapter in the religious history of the country and could not go unnoticed by the Christian Church. A delegation of high Church dignitaries with a large number of followers met Hazrat Khalifatul Masih on July 22. Some of the members in the ensuing talk tried to create the impression that the differences between the Ahmadiyya sect and the Sunni, Shia Muslims were of a real and basic nature.

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Contradicting their view Hazrat Khalifatul Masih explained that all denominations of Islam were united basically and had faith in Allah, the Holy Quran and the Holy Prophet in common. The differences arose in points of jurisprudence and some other minor matters. He continued that the opposition shown by Sunni and Shia Muslims to Ahmadis was individual and local.

He added that Muslims at large were now becoming more and more conscious of the services rendered to Islam by Ahmadis and their appreciation of the work done by the world-wide Ahmadiyya missions in this sphere was steadily growing.

Another member of the Delegation asked for Hazrat Khalifatul Masih's views on the future relations between the Ahmadiyya Movement and Christianity. The Hazrat said that Christianity was quite apart from Islam and its rival. The object before Ahmadiyya Movement was to preach the true Islam among all people including Christians and as intercourse between Ahmadis and Christians would grow he hoped that Christianity would lose its hold on them and they would join Islam as it was based on a better philosophy of life.

Some members of the Delegation could not suppress their resentment on this frank statement and began to rouse the passions of the audience by maligning Islam. Upon this Hazrat Khalifatul Masih told them that it was not the right method to test the comparative truth and value of Islam and Christianity. He added that if Christians were inclined to have it tested he would suggest a method which was originally devised by the Holy Founder of the Movement.

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Outlining the method as expounded by the Promised Massiah he said that the Torah and Gospels stood no comparison with the Holy Quran. In fact they could not compete with even the first chapter of the Holy Quran, the Fatiha which consisted of only seven verses, neither in form nor in substance. Fatiha was peerless in presenting spiritual wisdom and Divine verities both in volume and profundity and the Books of Moses as well as the Gospels failed to produce its like.

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih continued that if the Christian Church considered the Torah and the Injeel (Gospels) to be a match for Fatiha in execellence and in delineating Divine Truths then they should come forward and enter the lists with

him, as now he was the Successor of the Promised Massiah and responsible for fulfilling whatever he had initiated.

In this case, he said, he would first prepare a Commentary of the Fatiha and publish it. In this Commentary he would give full details of the spiritual truths contained in the Fatiha. It would then be for the Christian Church to produce these same truths from the Book of Moses and the Gospels.

Should three judges chosen by the parties concerned, evaluating the treatises declare that the fine points of spiritual knowledge, proved to be contained in the Fatiha are also shown to be contained in the passages quoted by the Christian Church from their books, he would give them a sum of Rs. 50,000/—as reward and this would also be a test of the comparative value and truth of Christianity and Islam.

In the end Hazrat Khalifatul Masih said that this challenge was now open and the Christian Church could take it up anytime they liked. The interview lasted for more than one and a half hour.

Subsequently a Delegation of Christian ladies met the wife of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih as well as the wife of Sahibzada Mirza Mubarak Ahmad and exchanged with them their views on Islam.

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The Press and the Mosque :

Taking notice of the opening of the Mosque in Copenhagen, the Danish Press saw in it a Challenge to Christianity and a sign of the increasing strength of Islam in Denmark. It invited the Church to take suitable steps for checkiag its progress.

As a sample we reproduce below the editorials which appeared in two popular Dailies in Denmark.

Lollands Tidende, in its issue of July 25, 1967 wrote :

Church And Mosque

"Islam-the belief of the Muhammedans-is now being spread

in Denmark. The first mosque has been built and inaugurated in Hvidovee. It is not uninteresting to take notice of this fact at a time when a structural commission has been formed to investigate the situation of the Danish church and what should be done in future that is even better known as it can be closely studied in the present time."

"Christianity has been for over 1000 years in Denmark, and there are Danish missionaries, men and women, that have worked in the countries where Islam is the popular religion. Today the situation is that Islam and Christianity are to "compete" in Denmark. Inner Mission, that has so far been the name of a Church organization, might well in the future also be the name of the activity that Danish Christianity will have to display at home in the opposition between Church and Mosque. The countries, to which we sent missionaries, are returning the visit. The scene has changed."

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"How then, is this foreign teaching received ? It is of course received on the same standing as other faiths, because Denmark has freedom of religion. But how is the religion received among the people ? A community has evidently rapidly been built and the mosque has been erected with a speed that shows there are serious minds within the Danish section of Islam. None would believe that Denmark will now become Muslim, but the activity that has been proven in Hvidovee is of such size that the Church cannot pretend that nothing has happened."

This has happened, that Denmark has become a mission area from being an area for sending out missionaries. This challenge has to be accepted. If the mosque in Hvidovre could get the structural commission going, the construction has not been in vain."

Aktuelt, in its issue of July 22, 1967, wrote :

First Mosque in Denmark

"A mosque in Denmark. A few decades ago one would

have laughed loud at the very thought. But in any case, this branch of Muhammadanism has displayed an amazing missionary effort and won rather great results not least in Africa."

"But in Denmark, this kind would not have any chance, or would it ? Well, when Mormonism and now Jehova's witnesses can win adherents, why not also Islam ? The numbers are still very small. But it is pointed out, that the same is true of the number of people that have accepted Christianity in Muslim countries. In this connection it should not, however, be forgotten that we have real freedom of religion in this country, while in Muslim countries it may mean danger to your life or at least grave social consequences to let yourself be baptized."

"We take notice of today's news. We are even willing to admire the energy of these men that in a relatively short time brought it so far. And it cannot hurt us to realize in this very time with its tension between Israel and the Arabic world that Islam is not so distant or obsolete that our grandparents usually would believe."

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"And it is excellent if the visible witness of the power of Islam that has now been built and is today inaugurated, can compel the people of the Church to consider the real difference between the "two religions of the book" as one is occasionally saying but really without justification. People that know say that Christian missions have not yet learnt how to approach our Muslim brethren. Even in this respect, the mosque in Hvidovee may be a steady reminder."

Reception

On July 25 the Lord Mayor of Hvidovee (Copenhagen) gave a reception in honour of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih in the the town Hall. Among others Sahibzada Mirza Mubarak Ahmad, Mr. Kamal Yousuf, Incharge of Ahmadiyya Mission in Denmark, Choudry M. A. Bajwa, Incharge, Ahmadiyya Mission in Switzerland were also present. The guests were feted by the citizens of Copenhagen.

Presenting his address of welcome on behalf of his colleagues and the citizens of Copenhagen, the Lord Mayor Said, "I feel it a great honour to welcome you and we take great pride in the fact that our city has been selected to have the first ever Mosque built in the country.

We hope that it will draw people from far and wide to it and promote feelings of love and amity among them."

The Lord Mayor then presented to Hazrat Khalifatul Masih a flag of the city and an illustrated book about Copenhagen as a mark of their appreciation of his visit.

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih in return presented the Lord Mayor a complete copy of the Holy Quran printed on one single sheet of paper. The Lord Mayor was very happy about the priceless gift.

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Reciprocating the sentiments of love and affection expressed by the Lord Mayor, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih said in his reply to the address, "I am deeply moved by and sincerely appreciate the spirit of cooperation and tolerance which you have shown in connection with the building of our Mosque. We assure you that a true Muslim must be a good citizen. It is also an element of our faith that we are loyal to the Government of the country in which we live and obedient to its laws. I thank you for the valuable present which you have given me and present to you a gift which in our view is the most precious as it contains perfect guidance for the welfare of mankind".

The Lord Mayor then took Hazrat Khalifatul Masih round the Town Hall and showed him the Assembly Chamber and other various parts of the city from its roof.

The Imam in England

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih reached the London Airport on July 26. He was greeted warmly and garlanded by a large number of Ahmadis representing various branches of our mission in England

with whom he shook hands before proceeding to the Ahmadiyya Mission House, 63 Melrose Road, London.

Our Mission in London is of long standing. It was established in 1913 by a companion of the Promised Messiah, ch. F.M. Siyyal and during its early period many renowned companions of the Promised Messiah had held its charge. Then it has the distinction of having received and entertained the late Hazrat Musleh Maud, second successor of the Promised Messiah (peace be on him), at first in 1924 when he laid the foundation stone of Fazl Mosque commonly known as the London mosque and then in 1955, when he came to Europe for medical treatment.

The mission has now well organised communities in Oxford, Southall, Bradford, Leeds, Manchester, Preston, Birmingham, Huddersfield, Kingsley, and Glasgow in Scotland. The number of Pakistani Ahmadis alone who have settled in England runs to several thousands.

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The arrival of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih in London was a great boon for since he has been elected to his high and holy office as Khalifa, these Ahmadis had got no opportunity to sit in his company and seek his prayers. Now that he was in their midst they wanted to meet him and offer him their love and affection and pledge to him their loyalty.

Having regard to their sentiments, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih devoted much of his time on July 27 and 28 in personal interviews with them and gave them every sympathy. On these two days he hardly stepped out of the Mission House except to pay a brief visit to Oxford University where he was educated and to attend a reception given in his honour in Wandsworth Hall.

On Friday the 28th July, Pakistani Ahmadis from all over England assembled in the mosque and in his *khutba*, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih told them of the spiritual darkness prevailing in England as well as in the whole of Europe at this particular period of time and drew their attention towards their duty.

He said that their duty lay in acting according to their professions and being a true image of Islam. They were no doubt the bearers of right beliefs but right belief was not the whole thing. It must be accompanied by right conduct. Only then a non-Muslim could feel attracted towards Islam, he added.

Continuing he said that if a non-Muslim saw that there was hardly any difference between him and an Ahmadi in the way they lived their lives then he would naturally be led to think that if the arguments and heavenly signs which Ahmadis offer so vehemently in support of Islam have done no good to them what good they can do to him!

He warned them that no empty claim would produce any effect. A skin without the kernel must be thrown away. If they wanted to draw the non-Muslims towards Islam they must show that God lived in their hearts. They must burn a candle themselves first if they wanted to enlighten others.

He said that Pakistani Ahmadis were the first people to be called by God in the present times to serve Him. God had made them through the Promised Messiah teachers of mankind and they must strive hard to maintain that distinction and honour.

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Reception in Wandsworth Hall

In London also Hazrat Khalifatul Masih reiterated his warning to the Western people that if they did not come back to their Creator and seek refuge in the Almighty God nothing would save them from destruction.

He was replying to the addresses of welcome presented to him by the Lord Mayor of Wandsworth and Chaudhry M. Zafrullah Khan, Judge, International Court of Justice. Besides. a very large number of guests, the Mayor of Wandsworth, some members of the British Parliament, representatives of Diplomatic Corps and other dignitaries attended the reception which was held in his honour in Wandsworth Hall on July 28, in the evening.

He told the audience that the Founder of the Ahmadiyya

Movement, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835-1908) was the Mahdi and the Promised Messiah raised to save the world in our times. He said that his advent had taken place in fulfilment of the prophecies made by the Holy Prophet in that respect. The Promised Messiah, he continued, had foretold on the basis of Divine revelation that five major catastrophes would visit the world if it did not turn to God.

In one of the catastrophes the Promised Messiah had stated that the Czar of Russia, his family and his system of Government would all be destroyed. And so it happened in the First World War. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih added that the Second World War was also one of the five catastrophes.

Continuing he said that the Promised Messiah had also prophesied that a Third World War of even bigger dimensions would follow the Second in which the world, divided into two opposing Blocks, will clash and hurl both the camps as well as the whole colossus of our civilization to destruction. The tragedy will leave the survivors amazed and aghast.

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Hazrat Khalifatul Masih further declared that "Russia will recover sooner from the calamity than the West and being reconciled with its Creator it will accept Islam and the Holy Prophet of Islam. A people who were seeking to wipe out the name of God from the earth and drive Him out of the skies will realize the folly of their ways and at long last submit to Him as staunch believers in His Unity and Oneness."

Stressing his point further, he said, "You may consider this a fantasy, but those who survive the Third World War will witness and bear out the truth of what I have said. These are the words of God Almighty. They shall be fulfilled. No one can avert His decrees".

Continuing he stated, "The end of the Third World War will be the beginning of the triumph of Islam. People will accept its truth in large numbers and will realize that Islam alone is the true religion and the emancipation of man is to be won through the message of Muhammad alone (on whom be peace)".

On July 29, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih paid a brief visit to Southall, Middlesex a branch of the Ahmadiyya Mission in England and attended a reception given to him by the Community. The branch is runaing a T. I. Sunday School also for the religious education of their children.

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In reply to the welcome address presented to him on this occasion, Hazrat Khalisatul Masih exhorted the community to live in peace and amity with each other and strengthen the ties of brotherhood which had been established among them by the sacred link of Ahmadiyyat.

Further he dwelt upon the teachings of Islam relating to the social set-up of mankind and said that it promoted peace and order in society and brought about a brotherhood in which the life, property and honour of every individual was sacred and safe. He then asked the Ahmadis to live according to Islam and present an exemplary life so that their European neighbours may be able to see for themselves Islam in its true colours.

The 4th Annual Gathering:

On July 30, Ahmadiyya Community in England held its Fourth Annual Gathering in Wandsworth Town Hall. Nearly a thousand Ahmadis attended the meeting.

Referring on this occasion to November 8 1965, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih said that on that sad day we lost for ever our beloved Imam, the Second Seccessor of the Promised Messiah who for the last 52 years was at the helm of our affairs. He was a symbol of God's grace with us and through all this long period he had shared with us our sufferings and sorrows and kept our hopes high even in times of dire distress.

The day was intensely sad for us and held an ominous challenge to the Movement whether it was going to succumb before this hard blow or it would rise above it and keep going.

God's mercy descended down upon us and every member of the Movement was held aloft by the firm faith he had in our

Living God and His Providence. Every member of the Movement whether he lived in America or Fiji had full reliance upon God and felt that He would not leave them alone.

Nearly 35 to 40 thousand Ahmadis gathered on that day in Rabwah. Their hearts were smitten with grief and their eyes were shedding tears.

According to the wishes of the Promised Messiah we had to choose a Khalifa on that very day and in the evening the elders assembled in the Mubarak Mosque. The family members of the Promised Messiah who were entitled to vote were there and so was I. We, the members of the family of the Promised Messiah had decided to offer our complete loyalty to the person whom God made our Khalifa.

The election started. I was sitting in the back rows lost in my own thoughts. When the election was over somebody came to me and told me that I had been elected as Khalifa. Only then I knew what had happened.

It struck me odd and I was taken aback. I was not taken to be a great Divine or scholar nor a great person by the Community. It was then purely the doing of our Almighty God. He had raised me up and placed me upon the throne of Khilafat. Had it been in the power of man, the Jamaat would not have elected me, a person not very competent in their eyes.

It was a great miracle shown by our Almighty God. And then when it was done, He changed the hearts of the Jamaat, made them joyful at my election and instilled in them deep love and attachment for me. Those who hated me before began to love me. One such Ahmadi wrote to me afterwards that his heart was so changed that now he would not hesitate to jump in a burning furnace if I bade him. This is all the doings of our God Almighty. No man has power to change the hearts of people in like manner.

On the one hand, God filled the hearts of the Community

with deep love for me and on the other He opened my heart and cleansed it of all enmities and hatreds which it had ever harboured against any man. He left no trace of it in my heart and filled it with His own love, the love for the Holy Prophet and the Promised Messiah and with love for you all. This love will now live for ever in my heart. Your sorrows are now my sorrows. Your grief is now my grief and your joys are now my joys. May God keep this love ever fresh in my heart and ever grant my prayers for your welfare.

Humble as I am I put my trust in God alone. I am powerless but I draw my power from God. I have no knowledge but what God imparts to me.

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih then called upon the Jamaat to carry on the work of the Movement with vigour and zeal and took their bai'at.

British Press:

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The London Times, in its Late London Edition of Friday August 1, gave the following report about Hazrat Khalifatul Masih:

The Caliph From Balliol

"I don't think many Caliphs have been educated at Balliol. One such is Caliph Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad, leader of the three million strong Ahmadiyya community—one of Islam's 72 larger sects—who is here for the first time since he read economics at Balliol from 1934 to 1938."

"Caliph Ahmad points out that he, like the original Caliphs following the Prophet Muhammad, has no temporal power— "I have no regard for material wealth". His tour, which includes visits to Ahmadiyya communities here and on the Continent, is a "mission of peace". He has also visited Balliol and has renewed some old acquaintances. "I know many of those who are in authority now. You know, in the last Conservative Government there were seven Ministers who were at Balliol

while I was there."

"At 57 Caliph Ahmad is gentle of manner and has a kind smile. Although a Pakistani, he is a distinguished Arabic scholor and was Principal of the Ahmadiyya Talim-ul-Islam College now in Rabwah, Pakistan for 21 years before he was elected by the Ahmadiyya College of 150 elders to succeed his father as the sect's third caliph. He still lives there."

Prophet without a Law

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"Of the nature of Islam" he says: "Why the very name means peace. Holy War is not a Muslim phrase. It is something you must ask the Christians about. We bave no such word." How did his sect stand over the Arab-Israeli war?" "It is not my place to discuss that."

"Founded in 1889 by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad" ("like Jesus a Prophet without a Law", says the Caliph) the Ahmadiyya sect Claims to be Islam's only missionary movement. They believe Christ died a natural death in Kashmir aged 120 and was known as Yus Asif, the Prophet of Palestine."

Before his death the Hazrat Ahmad promised five world catastrophes. "Two have already come, the First and the Second World wars. We believe the next could be a nuclear war started in the Middle East. Muslims and Christians should get together to prevent it.

The Imam in Scotland and back at Rabwah

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih visited our Mission in Glasgow on 31st July. He also visited some neighbouring communities and returned to London on the 9th August. From London, accompanied by his party, he started for Karachi on August 20, where he brokc journey for two days. He reached Rabwah safe and sound on August 24. Rabwah received him with shouts of joy and congratulations on the brilliant success of his mission to Europe.

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